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One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Foreign Affairs
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June 14, 2013

The Honorable Rajiv Shah
Administrator
U.S. Agency for International Development
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20523

Dear Dr. Shah:

We are pleased that the U.S. has agreed to be part of the International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI) standard. This standard aims to make current information on foreign assistance available in a common format, so that governments, foundations, implementers, legislators and citizens know how our foreign aid is deployed, right down to the project level.

However, we are concerned that progress on some aspects of this initiative have stalled. As you know, implementation of the IATI standard will be a major point of discussion at the G-8 Summit next week.

Prior to the Summit, we encourage USAID to issue a timeline for publishing relevant data on the Foreign Assistance Dashboard, the online database that presents U.S. Government foreign assistance funds in an IATI-standardized format. The Dashboard helps stakeholders examine, research, and track aid investments, and thus is an important component of our shared objective of increased transparency. We would also ask you to provide a timeline for USAID's submission of activity budgets, planned disbursements and results data to IATI. Without clear timelines, it is easy for the agencies to fall off-track.

Lastly, we urge you to commit, before the Summit, to joining the World Bank's Open Aid Partnership, which compiles information about the size, type and location of development projects in an IATI-standardized format when available. The geographical targeting of this partnership assists program coordination and monitoring program impact. The Open Aid Partnership brings together donors, governments, and civil society to implement IATI's standards and is consistent with U.S. commitments to transparency.

Properly done, transparency initiatives will provide the critical information needed to achieve better coordination with other donors, avoid duplication and waste, and provide Congress the means to oversee and support the Agency's work without time-consuming requests for information. Particularly in times of scarce resources, this initiative and the benefits that will flow from timely, accessible and detailed information are of considerable value.

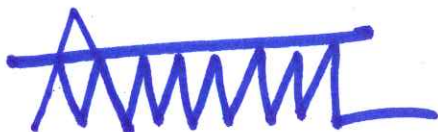
Sincerely,



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Chairman
Committee on Foreign Affairs



ELIOT L. ENGEL
Ranking Member
Committee on Foreign Affairs



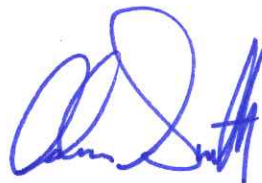
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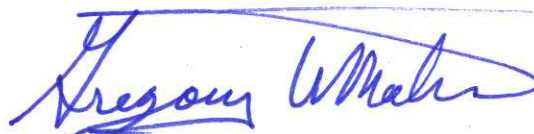
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